Prison Meeting

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SOS Exec

Dear Nevada State Prison Commissioners.

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As a nine-year resident of Pahrump, I have become very interested in the workings of the private prison industry, now that one is being placed in my back yard. For nearly a year, I've been searching out articles to explain why private prisons have become such a huge growth business and what makes them different from the public prisons. In the beginning, it was hard to find much on the subject besides some breakouts, riots, stabbings and a lot of locally circulated information on what great benefits to the community they would bring. After learning of the huge amount of money paid to executives in comparison to the average wages paid to the guards, many more questions surfaced. The fact that private corporations are not exactly subject to freedom of information requests led me to look in a different direction. As it turns out, the important information is hidden from the light of day; in fact the majority of the for-profit operators exist by cloaking mishaps and actions that would be routinely reported at public prisons.

It has become obvious to many that the lack of oversight in the financial industry has allowed the corruption and greed for profit to bring our country to its knees. While I do agree with privatization in most considerations, I strongly disagree with applying it to the corrections industry. If the State imposes a prison sentence upon a human being, then the State should also provide the implementation of that sentence. Article 3 of the Constitution clearly sets aside the formation of the Supreme Court and inferior courts as government institutions. Why are we allowing the courts' business to be transferred into the hands of for-profit corporate raiders that are showing the same symptoms of greed that our financial industry thieves were stricken with. If a person was arrested by a for-profit private law enforcement agency, convicted and sentenced in a for-profit private court, then it makes perfect sense to place him in a for-profit private prison. At that point, the majority of Americans would be looking for a new country to move to.

I have had a unique opportunity to first hand witness the greed, blatant lies and corruption permeate throughout my hometown in order to install a CCA owned spec prison here. I've watched the misinformation by CCA, lies from county commissioners, planning department omissions, skewed federal studies and skirting the edges of due process, all at the lower levels of government. As we move up the ladder we see judges convicted of taking huge sums of money for placement of inmates in private prisons, the OFDT side stepping questions, fraudulent acts of the Accreditation process and at the top, we find indictments for Dick Cheney and Alberto Gonzales centered around the massive profits made available by privatizing the corrections industry. Allowing human lives to be trafficked in this growing greed infested environment is contrary to any human decency and will never combat the roots of crime.

I beg you to please do whatever it may take to secure the State Corrections system. The oldest prison in Nevada is far better than the newest for-profit private prison. Please strongly consider ending any future business or negotiations with the private prison corporations. Nevada should be leader in sound government practice. Let the wisdom learned from watching the greed fest of the "Banksters" spill over into the wisdom to stop this industry dead in its tracks, here in

Nevada.

Respectfully Submitted. Kenny Bent, 2720 E. Basin Ave. Pahrump, Nevada 89060 (702) 480-0861